

**City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee**  
Minutes Taken by Adam Mitchell for March 10, 2005 Meeting

Members Attending: Rob Gogan, Harvard; Adam Mitchell, Save That Stuff; Judy Nathans; Cathy McCormick

Guests Attending: Justin Adams, MIT; Randi Mail, Cambridge Recycling Director; Susan Playfair, Freelance Author; Ellen Watson, License Commission; Anne Wasserman, MIT

**Move In Move Out Brochure**

Randi introduced a draft of this new brochure, which will be distributed in a targeted way to renters through moving companies, realtors, and City departments/businesses that residents interface with when moving in or out of the City. The "Recycling & Trash Guidelines" will be included as an insert with this brochure given that the intent is to have the Move In/Out brochure applicable for several years. 5,000 – 10,000 will be printed, but not as a mailer. There are several goals with the brochure:

- Promote the online Donate & Recycle Listings
- Address how to handle construction & demolition waste
- Detail how to recycle packing materials
- Promote repair and buying used items

There was an extensive discussion on the breadth of the booklet. Questions were raised on whether it was trying to do too much, whether people would really read all of the information and where distribution ideas such as the parking permit office, realtor "welcome" packet. Randi explained that the City has hired a professional designer, so the layout, graphics and navigation will be very different than the draft, which was distributed for written feedback.

Members asked if the hazardous waste collection dates could be integrated with the "Recycling & Trash Guidelines". Randi explained that every effort will be made to include the dates in the next brochure, but sometimes the contract has not yet been awarded setting the dates by August, when the "Recycling & Trash Guidelines" goes to print for the September mailing. Residents can always find out when the next HHW Day is by calling Public Works (617-349-4800), visiting the website ([www.cambridgema.gov/theworks](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks)) or noticing lawn signs around town. Randi will invite Annette Rodibaugh, DPW Operations Manager to come a future meeting to discuss her the City's household hazardous waste program.

**April Bottle Bill Discussion with Representative Alice Wolf**

A special Recycling Advisory Committee meeting will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> at 8am in the Ackerman Room at City Hall to discuss the expanded/updated bottle bill with Representative Alice Wolf and Phil Sego, the Sierra Club's Bottle Bill Coordinator. Cathy wanted to know

what our chief concerns were regarding the expansion and Judy mentioned that since un-redeemed deposits are not going to fund environmental programs, why should we support an expansion? When the MA Clean Environment Fund was in place prior to FY02, Cambridge received nearly \$100,000 annually for its recycling efforts, demonstrating that the MA Solid Waste Master Plan was not an unfunded mandate.

Ultimately, the Committee decided that it does not have a position at this time on the issue and would like to get a better understanding of Representative Wolf's support for it. Rob suggested that we bring in members of the Cambridge community that have to deal with the Bottle Bill to round out the discussion and several members volunteered to invite stakeholders. Randi asked for written questions for this meeting be sent to her. She has received the following:

1. *How will the proposed changes to the bottle bill affect restaurants? Will it be easier? Won't this involve more separation and handling?*
2. *What would you say to the Citizens for Limited Taxation, who might describe the state's seizure of the Clean Environment Fund (unclaimed nickel deposits) the past few years as misallocation of the funds intended to promote recycling?*
3. *What safeguards could be put into Expanded Bottle Bill to prevent this misallocation of funds from happening?*
4. *What would you say to a Cambridge property owner, whose taxes already pay for municipal collection of cans & bottles for recycling? Deposit (5 cents) plus handling fee (2.25 cents) plus bottler's process fee (3-5 cents) seems like double taxation. Expanding to new materials only extends the injustice.*
5. *What the bill will do to Redemption Centers like E&C Bottle and Can Return on Webster Ave? Will the 4-cent return vs. 5-cent debate be resolved? Will more redemption centers emerge?*
6. *Won't many small stores without crushing machines for returns be frustrated with the higher volume?*
7. *Can the vending companies contracted to put water and soda machines in T stations be forced to provide a container for recycling to address litter?*